

We Claim:

1. A method for automatic processing of electronic communication including the steps of:
- sending a communication from a sender in a first language;
- identifying the communication as a foreign language communication;
- optionally applying a quotation program to the communication to generate a quotation for human translation of the communication to a second language;
- optionally applying a translation program to the communication to generate a machine translation of the communication to the second language; and
- forwarding the communication, optional machine translation and optional quotation to a recipient.
2. The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:
- the recipient formulating a response to the communication;
- identifying the response as a native language response to the foreign language communication;
- optionally applying a machine translation program to the native language response to generate a foreign language response; and
- forwarding the foreign language response to the sender.
3. The method of claim 2 further including the step of optionally applying a translation program to the communication to generate a machine translation of the communication to the second language.

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4. The method of claim 1 wherein the sender directs communication to an email address of the recipient from a foreign language web page of the recipient and a mail server identifies that the communication has come from the foreign language web page and is therefore likely to be in a foreign language.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the translation program is resident on a translation server.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the translation program is resident on a special purpose server.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein said communication, said machine translation and said quotation are sent to the recipient by email.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein said communication, said machine translation and said quotation are stored at a web site for access by the recipient.
9. The method of claim 8 further including the step of providing security protocols to control access to said communication, said machine translation and said quotation when stored on said web site.
10. The method of claim 1 further including the steps of determining a quality of translation required, translating the communication to meet the required translation quality, and collecting fees according to the quality of translation provided.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of identifying the communication as a foreign language communication includes the step of identifying an email address of the recipient as being a foreign language

email address.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of identifying the communication as a foreign language communication includes the step of parsing the communication to identify foreign language words and phrases.

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13. A system for automatic processing of a foreign language communication, the system comprising:
first means for sending a communication over a communications network;
second means for receiving said communication and identifying said communication as a foreign language communication;
third means for generating a quotation for human translation of said foreign language communication to a native language;
fourth means for generating a machine translation of the foreign language communication to the native language;
fifth means for forwarding said communication, said machine translation and said quotation to an intended recipient; and
sixth means for said intended recipient to receive said communication, said machine translation and said quotation.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein the first and sixth means are personal computers.

15. The system of claim 13 wherein said second and fifth means is a network server computer configured as a mail server.

16. The system of claim 13 wherein said third means is a computer configured as a quotation server.

17. The system of claim 13 wherein said fourth means is a network server computer configured as a translation server.

18. The system of claim 13 wherein said second, third, fourth and fifth means is a single network server computer.

19. A computer in a networked computer environment, said computer programmed to perform the steps of:

- receiving a communication from a sender in a first language;
- identifying the communication as a foreign language communication;
- optionally applying a quotation program to the communication to generate a quotation for human translation of the communication to a native language;
- optionally applying a translation program to the communication to generate a machine translation of the communication to the native language; and
- forwarding the communication, optional machine translation and optional quotation to a recipient.

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